

Malika Abdul-Basir

From: i Mac <apackoftwo@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 7:49 AM
To: Rep. Gail Haines (District 43)
Cc: Malika Abdul-Basir
Subject: Testimony Against House Bill 5421

Importance: High

Committee Clerk, Please include this email into public testimony

Against House Bill 5421

This bill is prohibitive in that it "hamstrings" the ability to provide options (face-to-face) that may be necessary or even a minimal standard of medical care by a provider requiring that a provider use "*services appropriately provided through telemedicine*" if available as opposed to a face-to face contact. As well as the usual privacy concerns of that arise from electronic data transmission of private medical information.

The decision of the necessity of a face -to -face contact between a health care provider and a patient should be an option of the doctor and patient and not contingent upon the availability of an off location *Telemedicine service.

***Telemedicine** is the use of telecommunication and information technologies in order to provide *clinical health care at a distance* as well as the transmission of medical, imaging and health informatics data from one site to another.

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2011-2012/billintroduced/House/htm/2012-HIB-5421.htm>

Sec. 3476. (1) An expense-incurred hospital, medical, or surgical group or individual policy or certificate delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in this state and a health maintenance organization group or individual contract **shall not require face-to-face contact** between a health care provider and a patient **for services appropriately provided through telemedicine**, subject to all terms and conditions of the policy, certificate, or contract agreed upon between the policy, certificate, or contract

Thank you
Joan Fabiano
Holt, MI